

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows. On page 1, immediately after the title of the invention at line 1, please insert the following new paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a divisional application of co-pending parent application having U.S. Serial No. 09/452,342, filed November 30, 1999, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the text beginning at page 6, line 20 and ending at page 8, line 19, as follows:

The joining methods of the invention can allow a guidewire 40, shown in FIG. 5, to be formed with two adjacent components joined together to impart different handling characteristics to each section. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 5, an elongated proximal core portion 41 or a proximal section 41 is formed from stainless steel while a distal core portion 42 or a ~~the~~ distal section 42 is formed from a nickel-titanium alloy having pseudo-elastic or super-elastic characteristics, such as NiTi, commonly called NITINOL. Other metals having super- or pseudo-elastic properties may also be desirable. The invention is not limited to metals as other suitable bio-compatible materials such as polymers or composites may be used.

The proximal section 41 of the guidewire 40 is generally about 130 to about 140 cm in length with an outer diameter of about 0.006 to 0.018 inch for coronary use. The distal section 42 can have nominal transverse dimensions similar to those of proximal section 41, however, the distal section 42 typically has one or more tapered distal portions 43 and 44 which taper distally to a reduced diameter or transverse dimension. Larger diameter guidewires up to about 0.038 inch may be employed in peripheral arteries and other body lumens. Guidewire 40 may also have a flexible body member such as a helical coil 45 disposed about the distal section 42. A shapable member 46, which may be the distal extremity of the distal section 42, or a separate shaping ribbon 46, as shown in FIG. 5, is secured to the distal end 47 of the distal section 42. The distal section 42 extends through the helical coil 45 and is secured to a rounded plug 48 at a distal end 51 of the helical coil 45. The lengths of the tapered distal portions 43 and 44 can range from about 2 to about 20 cm, depending upon the stiffness or flexibility desired in the final product. The helical coil 45 is about 20 to about 45 cm in length, has an outer diameter about the same size as the diameter of the proximal section 41, and is made from wire about 0.002 to 0.003 inch in diameter. The shapable member 46 can have a ribbon has with a rectangular transverse cross-section, usually having dimensions of about 0.001 by 0.003 inch.

The proximal section 41 has a female end 52 with a hole 52A disposed at a distal extremity or end 53 of the proximal section 41. A male end 54 with a reduced diameter portion 54A extending proximally from a flanged portion 54B is disposed at a proximal

extremity or end 55 of distal section 42. The female end 52 and male end 54 can be engaged and secured in a similar fashion to the female end 28 and the male end 32 of the embodiment shown in FIG. 3. The reduced diameter portion 54A of the male end 54 can have a length of about 0.005 to about 0.20 inch, specifically about 0.02 to about 0.06 inch. The depth of hole 52A of the female end 52 should be comparable to the length of the reduced diameter portion 54A of the male end 54.